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OLC 72-0646
24 May 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of the Intelligence Subcommittee of House Armed Services Committee on 23 May 1972

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1. On 23 May 1972 Messrs. Maury and [REDACTED] accompanied by [REDACTED] updated the briefing previously given to the Intelligence Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee on 14 April 1972 on recent developments, and on the Indochina situation. Mr. Maury began with a brief rundown of recent events and covered the Grechko visit to Egypt, the various Egyptian/Soviet relations during the month of May, military developments in the Soviet Union and Chinese testing of the SS-2. [REDACTED] followed with a rundown of events in Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam. The discussion included Top Secret/Sensitive material.

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2. Committee members present for the session were:

Lucien Nedzi, (D., Mich.), Chairman
Alvin E. O'Konski, (R., Wis.)
William Bray, (R., Ind.)

3. Present from the Subcommittee staff were:

Frank Slatinshek
John Reddan

4. Chairman Nedzi's questions included the following:

a. Whether any new missile sites in the USSR have been started. He was told that there is no new construction.

b. As for Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, the Chairman was interested in what big changes have taken place in Laos, Lon Nol's health and status, and the current military status in South Vietnam.

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c. The Chairman asked about the mines and Soviet ship movements, the effect of the bombing and mining on Hanoi and its leaders, whether there is evidence of a split and whether the Agency sees anything happening on the part of the Soviets after the summit meeting to which it was responded that the Soviets in their public statements have taken a very soft line and the vessels that have been quietly assembled off the Paracel Islands are not of a type that would be much help in clearing mine fields.

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d. Chairman Nedzi and Mr. Slatinshek asked about the number of [REDACTED] troops in Laos and how their numbers have increased to which it was responded there has been no increase this year. The number next year will be a function of the situation at that time.

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5. [REDACTED] mentioned that General Vang Pao may be in Washington early in June to which Mr. Slatinshek responded that he thought that Chairman Hebert might be interested in meeting with the General.

6. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chairman expressed his appreciation and noted the sensitivity of the material provided and was joined by Representative O'Konski and Mr. Slatinshek in commenting on the fact that the substance covered was completely off-the-record. It was indicated that further briefings like this one will be requested.

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7. There was one item for followup: Chairman Nedzi asked if we would provide the number of [REDACTED] troops presently in Laos.

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[REDACTED]
Assistant Legislative Counsel

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